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Stuttgart, Bad Aibling, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany



Pvt. Zachary Sprague of the 587th Signal Battalion prepares to land a right hook to the head of Master Sgt. Sam Tidwell of Special Operations Command, Europe, during the Stuttgart Boxing Invitational Jan. 10 on Patch Barracks.

‘Fight Night’ in Stuttgart Area amateurs square off on Patch

Story & photo by Hugh C. McBride

Apparently, Stuttgart is ready to rumble. More than 300 fight fans flocked to the Patch Fitness Center Jan. 10 for the Stuttgart Boxing Invitational, the first on-post boxing event in the Stuttgart military community in more than 15 years. “It was good to bring boxing back to Stuttgart,” said 6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris, who was one of several area officials to climb into the ring to present trophies to the evening’s competitors.

6th ASG Sports and Fitness Director Bryant Searcy said he was encouraged by the excitement generated for an event that was born out of a casual conversation.

“We were talking about boxing in the office one day, and we decided to give it a shot here in Stuttgart,” Searcy said. “We did some research and found out the last [on-post] boxing match here was in November 1987.

“The Sports and Fitness staff and the officials did an outstanding job, and all the boxers put forth a great effort to give us great entertainment,” he added.

Though Searcy had hoped to showcase as many as six fights, deployment-related cancellations from fight-

‘That’s why I joined the Army:
To fight.

Pfc. Kenneth Busby
554th Military Police Company

ers stationed in Baumholder, Hanau and Heidelberg whittled the card down to three bouts.

“We have some things to work on for the next one, but when it happens it will be bigger and better,” he said.

Searcy said he hopes to incorporate organizational pride into another “fight night” in March or April.

“We want to get the local units involved and add [the results] to the Commander’s Cup competition,” he said.

An intense evening

Though the Jan. 10 “fight night” was shorter than expected, intensity was in plentiful supply.

Spectator Gary Badertscher said he appreciated the effort that was on display in the ring.

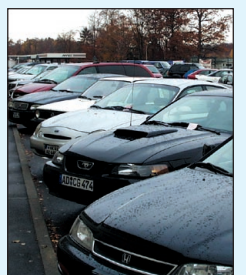
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Coming soon: more parking on Patch

Finding a place to park on Stuttgart’s most populous installation should be a bit easier in the near future.



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Kindermusik kids groove to the beat

Two teachers in the Stuttgart area introduce children and their parents to the joys of music.